

# **NEWS FROM SCDCA**

## **South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs**



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **SCDCA SHARES FACTS REGARDING TIMESHARES AND VACATION PLANS**

Columbia SC....With summer at its peak, many consumers are still planning and taking vacations. Vacation timesharing, the use of a vacation home for a limited, pre-planned time, has become an increasingly popular way to take vacations.

The two main types of timesharing plans are deeded and non-deeded. With the deeded plan, you buy an ownership interest in a piece of real estate. In the non-deeded plan, you buy a lease, license, or club membership that lets you use the property for a specific period of time each year for a stated number of years.

As with any costly purchase, you should understand what you are getting before you sign any papers or pay any fees. Before purchasing a timesharing vacation, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs suggests the following tips:

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#### **About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:**

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers.

Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit [www.sccconsumer.gov](http://www.sccconsumer.gov)

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- Evaluate the location and quality of the resort, as well as the availability of units.
- Research the track record of the seller, developer, and management company.
- Get in writing all of the obligations and benefits of the timeshare or vacation plan purchase.
- Use an escrow account if you're buying an undeveloped property and get a written contract from the seller that the facilities will be finished as promised.
- Be wary of offers to buy timeshares or vacation plans in foreign countries.

For information on other consumer protection issues contact the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, 3600 Forest Drive, Suite 300, Post Office Box 5757, Columbia, South Carolina 29250 or 803.734.4200 or 1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC) or visit our Website at [www.scconsumer.gov](http://www.scconsumer.gov).

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